

EPA REGION III

ENVIRO-BYTES

A Summary of Weekly Issues & Events
for the Week Ending August 24, 2001

Welcome to *Enviro-Bytes*, a weekly news wrap-up from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3 mid-Atlantic office in Philadelphia.

EPA-FUNDED LOCAL PROJECT SPURS PEER HEALTH COUNSELING

An EPA-funded, Philadelphia-based project targeted to after-school programs will be launched next month. The educational program for, and by children aged 10 to 16 is designed to empower youth to educate their peers about environmental health hazards through participation in activities such as drama, art and sports. They will also be encouraged to exhibit what they're learning on their own terms, be it poetry, rap or skits. Initially the program will be used in neighborhoods that pose a high risk of exposure to environmental hazards such as asthma triggers and lead poisoning, but in time it may also be expanded to youth organizations and community centers everywhere. The organization is called RADICAL Youth (Read Actions Directed to Improving Children's Health and Lifestyle) and is an EPA partnership with the regional nursing centers consortium.

EPA SCIENTISTS HELP MAP THE DELAWARE RIVER.

The coastal and marine team, including EPA, has completed mapping the Delaware River from the Betsy Ross Bridge to the Delaware Memorial Bridge. The two-week project undertaken for the Delaware River Basin Commission and Delaware Estuary Program teamed Region III scientists with the University of Delaware's department of physical oceanography. The regional research vessel *Lear*, fitted out with side scan and multi-scan sonar, cruised the river to provide a detailed sediment map. The map will be used for modeling the sediment transport in the river and help in the development of a TMDL for PCBs in the Delaware.

EPA RESTORES RIVERBANK ON THE SCHUYLKILL; CLEARS POLLUTION FROM HAMBURG, PA. LEAD-REMOVAL SITE

Battery cases from the old battery-recycling operation are being prevented from falling into the Schuylkill River through the riverbank restoration currently undertaken by EPA. A fenced area has been installed and erosion-control measures are being undertaken. The project, which may take a year to complete, will culminate in a green, re-planted area brimming with vegetation and anchored down with a nature trail which EPA will assist in building. The park will remain open and safe to use during the duration of the work.

EPA REGION III EMERGENCY RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTED IN RADIO SHOW

On Sunday, August 19, the weekly radio show, "Inside Government," highlighted the Superfund emergency response and preparedness program. An EPA official reviewed how EPA and other statutory authorities address oil spills, explosions, floods and other disasters involving hazardous materials. The recent high-profile Motiva acid spill in Delaware was used to illustrate the Agency's role in an emergency response as well as the coordinated efforts undertaken with state and local counterparts during such an emergency.

WHITMOYER LABORATORIES SUPERFUND SITE REDEVELOPMENT TO BE FINALIZED

EPA is finalizing plans to redevelop this Lebanon County Superfund site. After the property is transferred to the township, development into a recreation area complete with soccer and baseball fields plus a nature trail will follow.

EPA AWARDS A GRANT TO MARYLAND TO IMPACT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

EPA has awarded a grant for \$188,250 to the Maryland Department of the Environment under the Clean Water Act in support of an innovative initiative related to the state's operation of the national pollution discharge elimination system program. The purpose of the project is to identify where additional nitrogen removal is achievable and cost effective for continued water quality improvements statewide and for beneficial impacts on the Chesapeake Bay. Currently, Maryland is implementing a voluntary biological nutrient removal program for wastewater treatment plants.

EPA FLUNKS ANOTHER SCHOOL IN MULTI-MEDIA INSPECTION

EPA Region III staff recently completed an inspection at Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware. This was the 11th multi-media inspection undertaken at a college or university in Region III and the second school to be inspected in the state of Delaware. One of the causes of environmental non-compliance in the university sector is the lack of knowledge of environmental regulations on the part of facilities management staff. Further compliance assistance may be helpful to remedy the situation.

EPA INVOLVED IN FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION-SPONSORED EMERGENCY HOUSING MEETING FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN WV.

On August 20-21, 2001, members of the West Virginia Council of Churches, as well as state and federal officials, gathered at White Sulphur Springs, W.V. to discuss the needs of many southwestern West Virginia counties hit by severe floods last month. An EPA representative from the Office of Environmental Innovation was there to promote the construction of high performance, energy efficient housing for areas that will be rebuilt. The discussions included how to restore basic services such as electricity, clean water, waste disposal, and how to best disseminate information to victims and coordinate volunteer efforts. The group wrestled with the problem of long-term sustainable development of the flooded counties which were depressed and poverty stricken prior to the flood.

EPA AWARDS AIR EMISSION REDUCTION GRANTS TO MARYLAND AND THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

EPA has awarded grants to the State of Maryland and the City of Philadelphia for using innovative approaches in reducing transportation related air emissions. The grants are awarded under the Clean Air Transportation Communities program for reducing emissions and enhancing energy efficiency in the transportation sector. Eligible recipients must demonstrate a new tool for addressing transportation-related emissions that is innovative, has measurable emissions benefits, and can be used as a pilot for other communities. The first grant to Maryland is to the Maryland Department of Planning in the amount of \$150,000 for its Owings Mills transit-oriented development project. This project will examine the air emission benefits from transit-oriented development along an existing subway line on the outskirts of Baltimore. The second grant is to the City of Philadelphia in the amount of \$200,000 for its human/electric powered utility vehicles project. This project will include the purchase of several human/electric powered vehicles for use in the city parks and the municipal airport to determine the air emission benefits from their use in lieu of gasoline or diesel powered vehicles.

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